

COSTA RICA

# ULRICH STRICKLER REFUSED TO TALK TO COMMITTEE

[Article; San Jose, La Nacion, Spanish, 14 March 1973, p 18]

Yesterday Ulrich Strickler refused to answer questions asked of him by members of the legislative committee investigating mutual funds activities and broker Robert L. Vesco.

Strickler was notified by attorney Harry Zurcher, in the presence of the committee and shortly before the questioning began, that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) had presented a formal claim against him which made him one of 42 executives of mutual funds companies accused with the broker, Robert Vesco, in New York state. The committee members respected Strickler's decision to refuse to answer questions in view of the fact that, legally speaking, his position had changed.

## Protest To Be Made to U.S. Embassy

During an exchange of views, the representatives of the National Liberation Party, Messrs Jorge Solano Chacon, Angel E. Solano Calderon, and Mr Edgar Arroyo Cordero, disagreed openly among themselves over the issue of whether Mr Strickler had been notified of the claim by the time he came before the committee. In light of this, a motion was proposed to make a protest to the U.S. Embassy, since it was already considered likely that the claim that Zurcher brought in the name of the SEC had arrived by that route. The motion was approved by the votes of the three National Liberation Party designated representatives and by the elected president, Rafael A. Valladares Mora, with Representative Guillermo Jimenez Ramirez voting against the motion.

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MCALPIN IS INTERVIEWED IN MEXICO

[Article; San Jose, La Nacion, Spanish, 13 March 1973, p 18]

Although as members of the investigative commission, congressmen Dr Longino Soto Pacheco and Angel E. Solano Calderon have not revealed details of their interview with Gordon McAlpin in Mexico, it is known that it took place for almost 3 hours in a cordial atmosphere.

The two congressmen will make a report within 48 hours to the commission which is inquiring into mutual fund activities. Mr McAlpin was advised during the interview in Mexico by attorney Oscar Bejarano who arrived in Mexico City the same day as congressmen Soto Pacheco and Solano Calderon. McAlpin's statements which are considered as vital information, were taped and will become part of the commission's records.

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## PRESIDENTIAL PRESS OFFICE DENIES DEPUTY'S CHARGES

/Statement released by Presidential Press Office; San Jose, La Nacion, Spanish, 13 March 1973, p 297

In response to a press report issued by Deputy Jesus Fernandez Morales, the Presidential Press Office yesterday released the following statement:

The honorable deputy heard the distant sirens and thought that the fire engines were coming to put out a fire. He was wrong; it was only a parade. So unsure is he of the assertions he has made on his "denunciation" -- to the effect that this office set up the presentation of Mr. Robert Vesco -- that, at the end of his note, he announces that this is "the last word and there will be no debate." The deputy is wrong again. This is not the end of the story because we are going to challenge him on it.

1. As a service to newsmen, the Press Office informs them and reminds them of all actions, press conferences, departures and arrivals as well as visits of the President, the ministers, the autonomous government agency heads, etc. But it also announces any event that may be a source of information for the newsmen, any event which we have been asked to announce. Thus we announced the press conference of Mr. Vesco and, on the same day likewise, the Day of the Jews who were demonstrating in favor of the minorities of their fellow Jews in the USSR. This is a routine thing but the deputy was not apprised of this by his informants.

2. Upon request of some newsmen, we provided photographic coverage -- as we have done hundreds of times -- for Mr. Vesco's press conference. It so happened that some newspapers or television news programs had assigned their photographers or interviewers elsewhere, looking for newsworthy information and we simply supplied them with the photos we had. We gave them away free of charge, as we usually do in such cases.

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3. Mr. Alvaro Alvarez until the middle of last year worked in this office and was then transferred to the Pacific Electric Railroad until December when his job was eliminated due to budget cuts in spite of the magnificent public relations and information work he had done. We have known him for years; we have been good friends and we are still trying to make sure that his skills as a newsman will be properly utilized. This is why we employed him from time to time on recording, transcription, and other assignments as the professional newsman he is; but unfortunately he has no official position in this office nor in any other office under the Office of the President. This however should not prevent a good Costa Rican newsman from trying to make an honest living -- in this office or anywhere else he can exercise his profession, until we can get him a job here.

4. The fact that Mr. Manuel Moscoa, the interviewer of this office, shows up in some photos taken at the press conference, does not mean that "he was working for Vesco," nor does it mean that this office "arranged the whole thing." We did not attend the press conference in spite of our journalistic curiosity, precisely in order to avoid any suspicion.

If we had done so, people would have said that the President placed us at the disposal of Mr. Vesco. That is the way the situation is now. Something which should be considered quite normal -- a newsman attending an important press conference -- constitutes a sinful activity according to the narrow-minded outlook of certain critics.

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